

REGULAR MEETING – February 26, 2020

On this the 26th day of February 2020, at approximately 2:00 P.M. the Honorable Election Commission of Blanco County convened in a REGULAR MEETING in the Grand Jury Room located in the Blanco County Courthouse in Johnson City with the following members to-wit:

BRETT BRAY	COUNTY JUDGE
LAURA WALLA	COUNTY CLERK
KRISTEN SPIES	COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR
CARLETTE LEWIS	REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR
TERRY CASPARIS	DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR

ITEM 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call.

County Judge Bray, County Clerk Walla, County TAC Spies, Republican Party Chair Lewis, Democratic Party Chair Casparis announced present. Also, present Assistant County Attorney Kimberly Ashby.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment is attached

ITEM 4 – Approval of prior Election Commission minutes.

COUNTY TAC SPIES made the motion to approve the prior minutes as presented. Seconded by REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR LEWIS. Judge Bray called for discussion and vote.

JUDGE BRAY – YES.

COUNTY CLERK WALLA – YES.

COUNTY TAC SPIES – YES.

REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR LEWIS – YES.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR CASPARIS – YES. MOTION CARRIED. 5/0

ITEM 5 – Consider applications and possible action regarding appointment of an Elections Administrator.

No action taken

ITEM 6 – Entered into Executive Session at approximately 2:10 P.M.

Returned to Open Session at approximately 4:09 P.M.

No action taken during Executive Session.

ITEM 7 – Return to Open Session – NO ACTION TAKEN

ITEM 8 – Adjourn

COUNTY CLERK WALLA made the motion to adjourn, seconded by COUNTY TAC SPIES. Judge Bray called for discussion and vote.

JUDGE BRAY – YES.

COUNTY CLERK WALLA – YES

COUNTY TAC SPIES – YES.

REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR LEWIS – YES.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR CASPARIS – YES. MOTION CARRIED. 5/0

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items

The above and foregoing minutes were examined and approved in Open Court this le
day of March, 2020.

State of Texas
County of Blanco

I, Kristen Spies County Tax Assessor Collector, Blanco County, Texas attest that the foregoing is a true and correct accounting of the Election Commission authorized proceedings for February 26, 2020.



Kristen Spies
TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

I am Kenneth Welch of Blanco County

Yesterday I spoke at the County Commissioners Court and expressed my concern that the court was considering whether or not to violate Texas law by ignoring Sec. 152.013 of the Texas Governmental Code. That code provides that salaries of elected officials are to be set during the annual budgeting process. The code requires budget hearings and public notification of proposed salaries.

I also expressed my support of having a qualified Elections Administrator. I was pleased to hear that Judge Bray shares my desire to fill that position. I believe each of you feels the same. However, I advised the Commissioners Court on Jan. 14 that I did not feel you would be able to hire a qualified individual at the pay rate that you proposed. Yesterday's move to divert funding budgeted for the official position only diminishes your chance to fill the vacancy. I urge you to continue your search for a qualified Elections Administrator; I also urge you to propose a higher pay rate during the annual budgeting process.

Filling this position will go a long way to restoring public confidence in the integrity of the voting process in Blanco County. At a time when the most fundamental principles defining credible elections are under challenge throughout our nation, you must do everything to ensure that we have free and fair elections. To do so you must be sure our elections are transparent, inclusive, and accountable thus ensuring the will of the voters is freely expressed.